

Greenham Women Everywhere – past and future – Join us at Faslane on October 1st to Make Nuclear Weapons History

On October 1st 2006, women will gather for two days at the UK nuclear submarine base at Faslane in Scotland (30 miles from Glasgow). Our women's blockade from October 1-2 will connect with international Women in Black (October 2-3), and then be followed by mixed groups from all over Scotland, the rest of Britain and abroad. This women's action is the start of Faslane 365, a nonviolent campaign to prevent the unlawful operation of the nuclear base, using creative actions and interactions to oppose the madness and waste of Trident and all nuclear weapons. Already many mixed peace and justice groups have committed to this action, with each taking responsibility for peacefully blockading the Trident base over a two-day period.

In celebration of Greenham's 25th anniversary, Faslane 365 will bring together women who came to Greenham and all women who wished they'd been at Greenham (and, of course, our mothers, daughters, grandmothers and granddaughters). This isn't about nostalgia, but about reclaiming our power and finishing the job we started in 1981! One big push and we can get rid of British nuclear weapons forever.

Why?

Nuclear weapons are irrelevant for defence, but could still destroy the world. They epitomise the ultimate in violence and threat, and women have been at the forefront of making these connections. Now the British government is planning to spend over £25 billion on a successor to Trident and we need your help to stop this madness and waste. We have to consign them to the dustbin of history and focus resources on dealing with the daunting security challenges we face today, such as climate change, violence against women, poverty, wars for oil, greed or power, and erosion of human rights. As with our success against cruise missiles in the 1980s, we can make Trident undeployable by combining persistent, nonviolent opposition at the site of deployment with creative actions, political pressure and wide networking.

How?

Running from October 1st 2006 for a year, Faslane 365 will bring diverse groups to witness and impede the Faslane nuclear base and demand an end to this nuclear madness. The Faslane 365 blockades will draw attention to the illegality, insecurity and dangerous waste of resources inherent in the Trident nuclear system. We will mobilise opposition and highlight our real, human security needs, which will require a very different allocation of resources and action.

All groups that participate in this continuous blockade will agree to a set of fundamental principles and guidelines that stress nonviolence and respect for all. All will commit to the core demand that Trident be disarmed and taken out of deployment; and that the government rule out developing any new nuclear weapons and make a timetable for dismantling the existing weapons and facilities. Beyond these basic commitments, it is up to individual groups to conduct their blockade as they see fit. We plan to have workshops, music, redecoration of the base and so on.

Where?

Faslane is about 30 miles from Glasgow, along the north shore of beautiful Gare Loch, Firth of Clyde. It is just past Helensburgh, which can be reached by rail and road. Faslane has two main gates and a couple of smaller ones on land and a long fence. We need thousands of women to join us, singly or in groups – this is a chance to reconnect with old friends and rebuild networks and groups in your town. You will need to be as self sufficient as possible for travel, food and accommodation, including for children. Those not wanting to blockade directly or risk arrest can participate in other important ways. See the website for ideas, information and advice on practicalities. There is a place for all of us, and all of us are needed!

To help prepare, the Aldermaston Women's Camp(aign) will be holding women-only training workshops on nonviolence and blockading on July 8-9 at AWE Aldermaston (50 miles west of London) where the government is adding to its facilities to design, test and develop the next generation of nuclear weapons.

Put the dates October 1-3 in your diary and join us. For something this special, important and fun, we want as many women as possible to participate. Help us circulate this call as widely as possible. Send this message to every woman you know and care about!

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